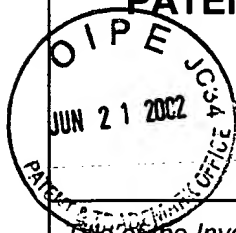


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	<i>Application Number</i>	09/809,029
	<i>Filing Date</i>	March 16, 2001
	<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Martin C. Barnardo
	<i>Group Art Unit</i>	1641
	<i>Examiner Name</i>	Gary W. Counts
	<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	1181-251
<i>Title of the Invention:</i> METHOD		



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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In an Office Action dated May 8, 2002, the time for responding to which has been extended by one month, the examiner asserted that the claims of the present application are directed to more than one distinct invention as follows:

Group I: claims 1-17 and 20, drawn to a method of detecting the presence of anti-MHC antibodies in a sample and a method of detecting the presence of anti-HLA antibodies in a sample and a kit, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1;

Group II: claim 18, drawn to a single solid support, classified in class 436, subclass 518; and

Group III: claims 19 and 21, drawn to a method of depleting a sample of MHC molecule antibodies, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-17 and 21, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicants specifically reserve the right to prosecute the remaining claims of the application in one or more divisional applications.

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Applicants request that non-elected claims 18, 19 and 21 be canceled from this application without prejudice.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label 6449					
Name	Barbara G. Ernst, Reg. No. 30,377				
Signature	Barbara G. Ernst		Date	June 20, 2002	
Address	Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.				
City	Washington	State	D.C.	Zip Code	20005
Country	U.S.A.	Telephone	202-783-6040	Fax	202-783-6031